Tonari ni (Next to You)

By Basso

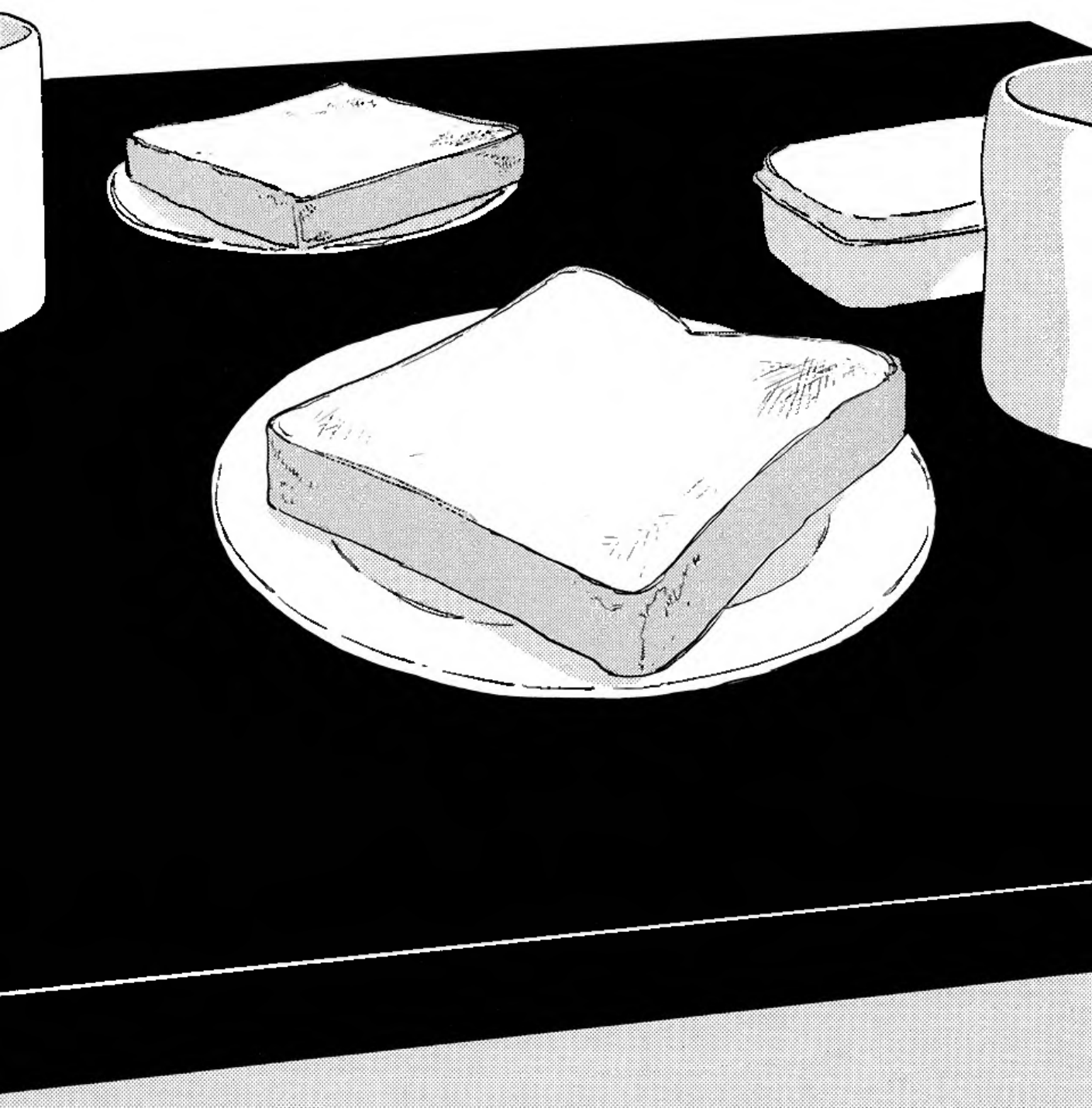
Chapter 4

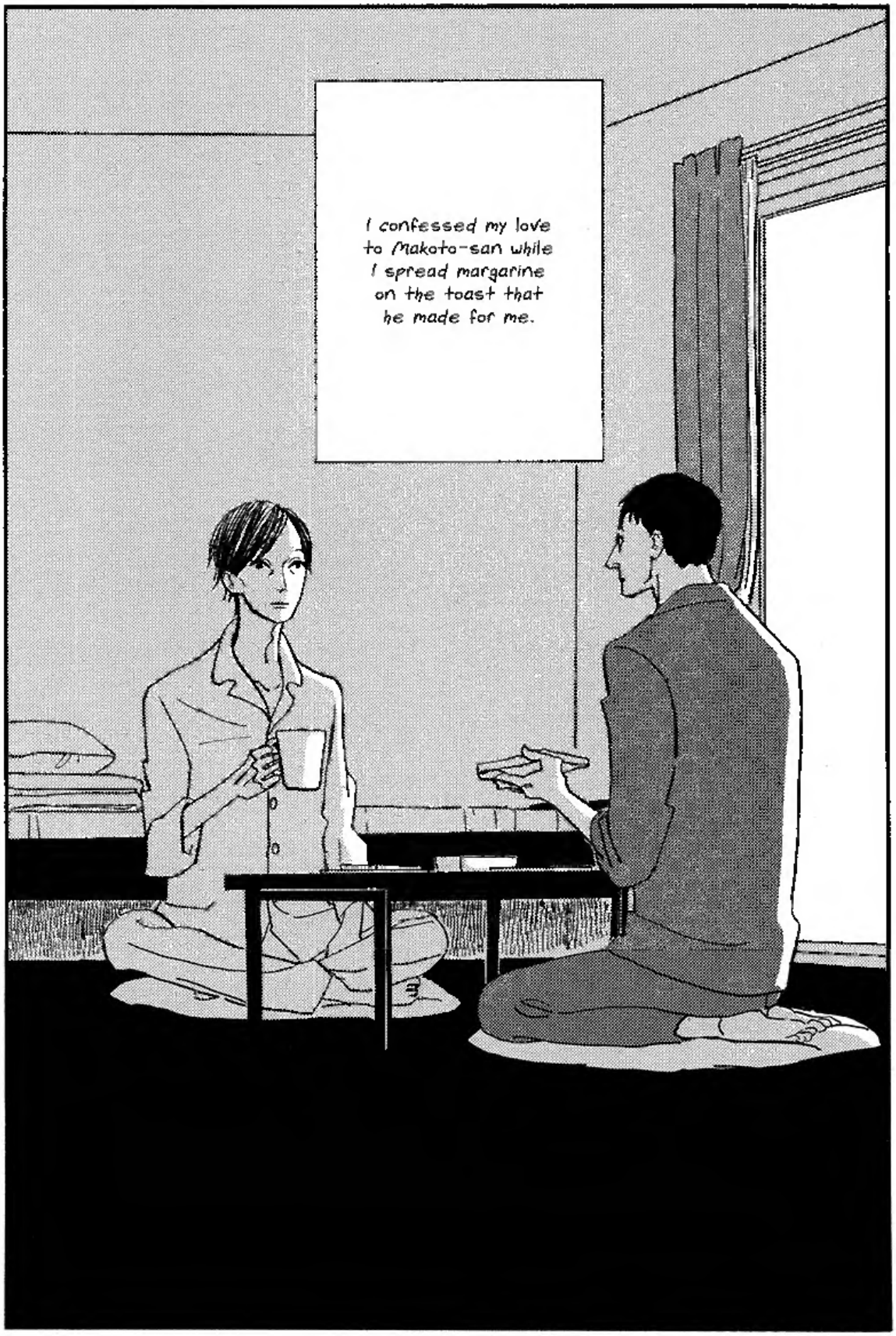
Scanner: Oyajidesu
Cleaner: Crystal Espers
Translator: Oyajidesu
Typesetter: Marimo

Naono Holics
naonoholics.tumblr.com
X
Oyajidesukara
oyajidesukara.tumblr.com

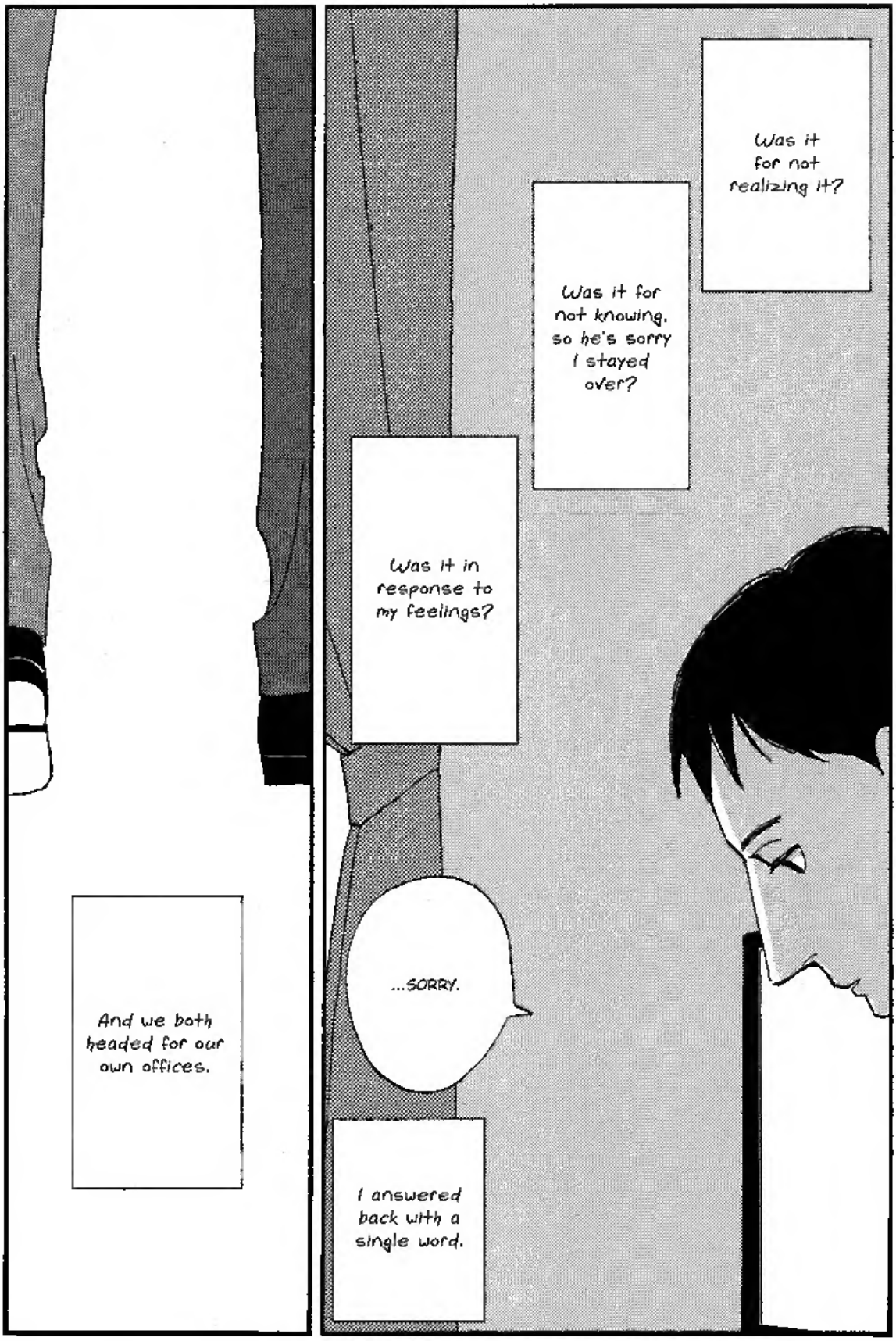
Episode 4

tonari ni



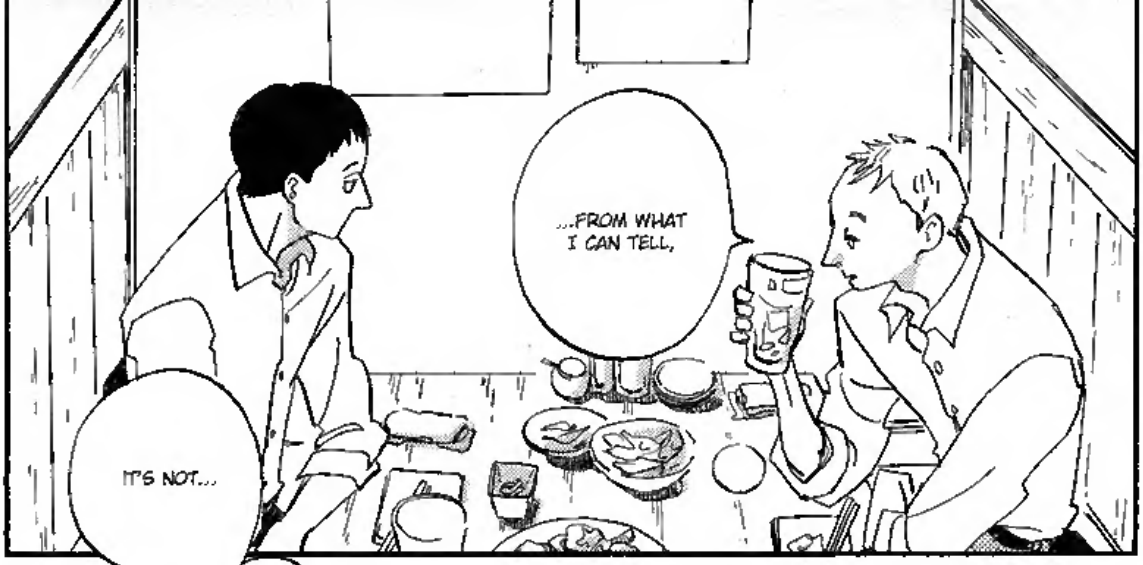

I confessed my love to Makoto-san while I spread margarine on the toast that he made for me.

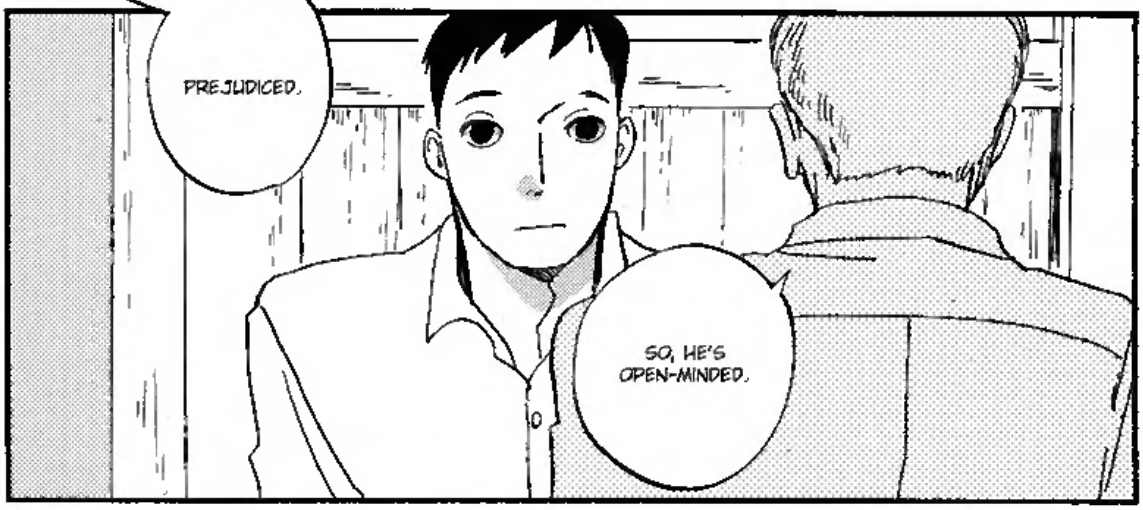
He said...
...I NEVER REALIZED.
And then...
...I'M SORRY.
He apologized.


Was it for not realizing it?
Was it for not knowing, so he's sorry I stayed over?
Was it in response to my feelings?
...SORRY.
I answered back with a single word.
And we both headed for our own offices.

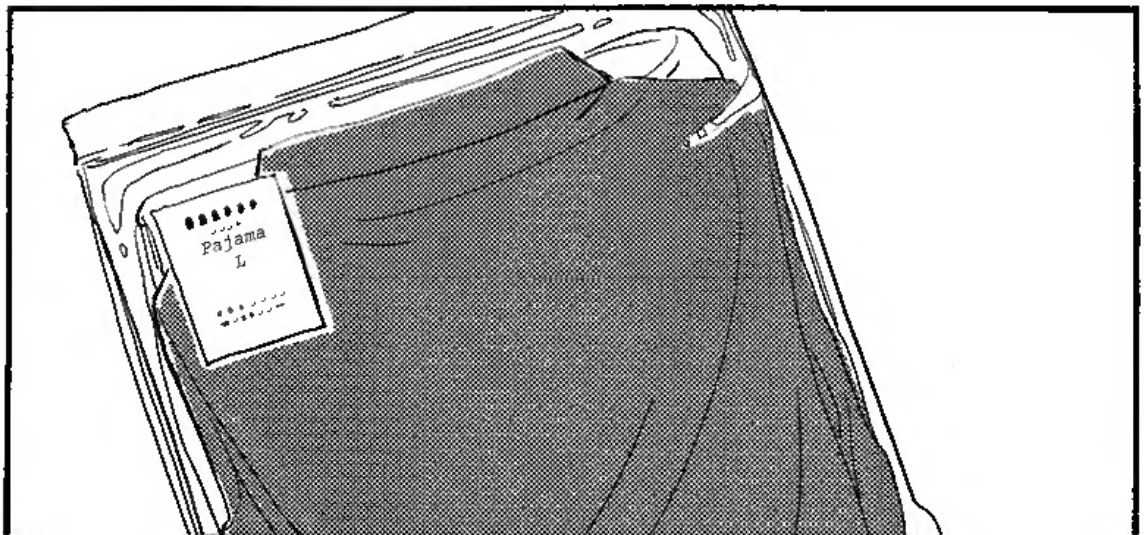
That "sorry" must have been for all those things.
It's not because he's busy. That's just the way it's going to be.
And I haven't heard from him again.

YOU WERE VERY OPEN ABOUT LIKING HIM.
I'M AMAZED HE DIDN'T REALIZE.
"IT NEVER CROSSED MY MIND THAT THERE IS SOMEONE OUT THERE...
WHO'D FALL IN LOVE WITH ME THAT WAY."
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.

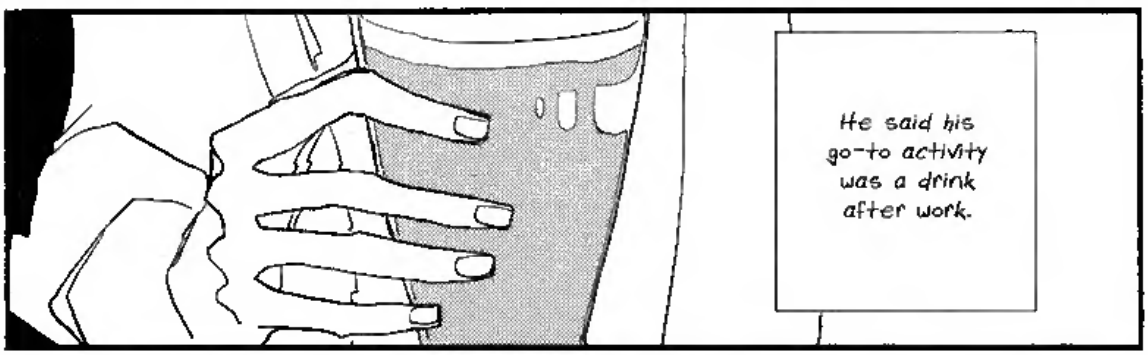

...FROM WHAT I CAN TELL,
IT'S NOT...


PREJUDICED.
SO, HE'S OPEN-MINDED.

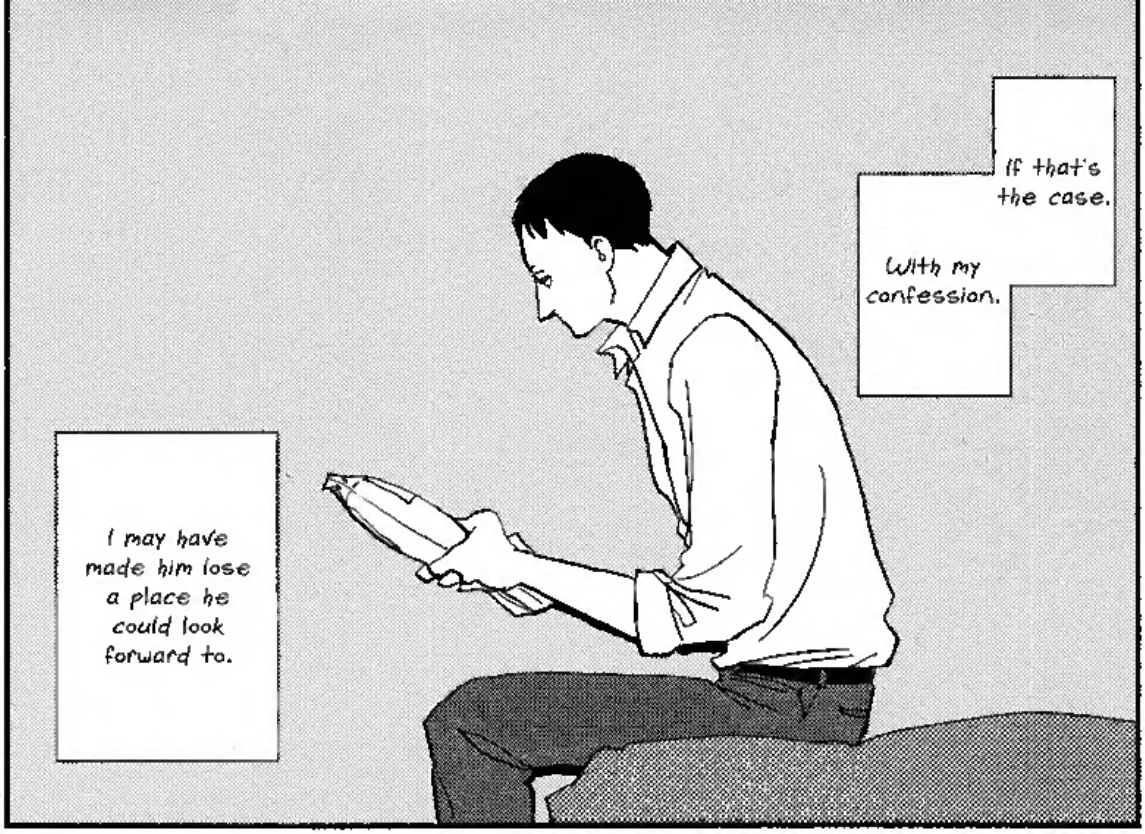
...YEAH.

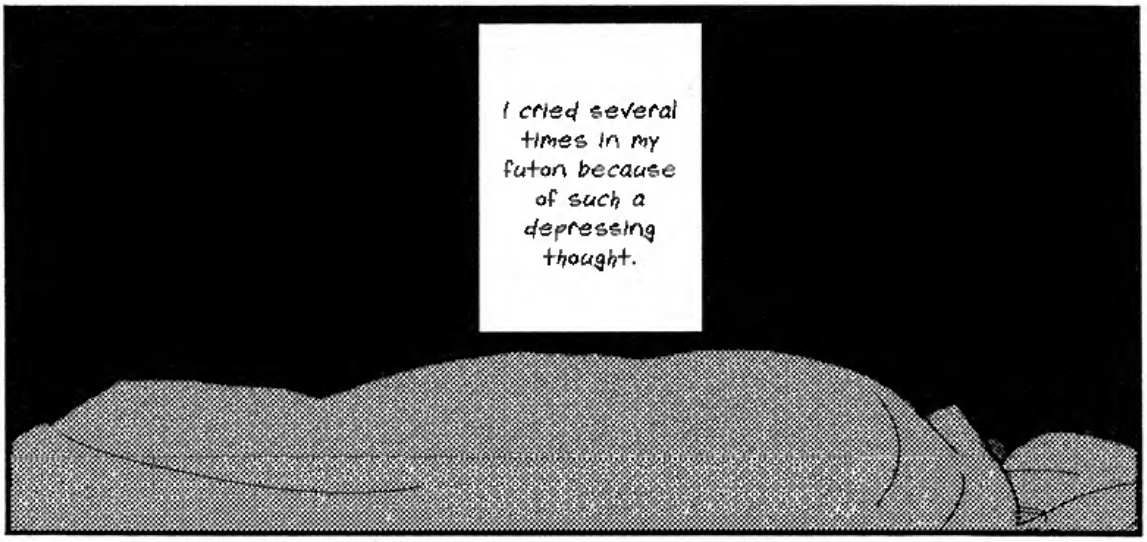

Pajama
L

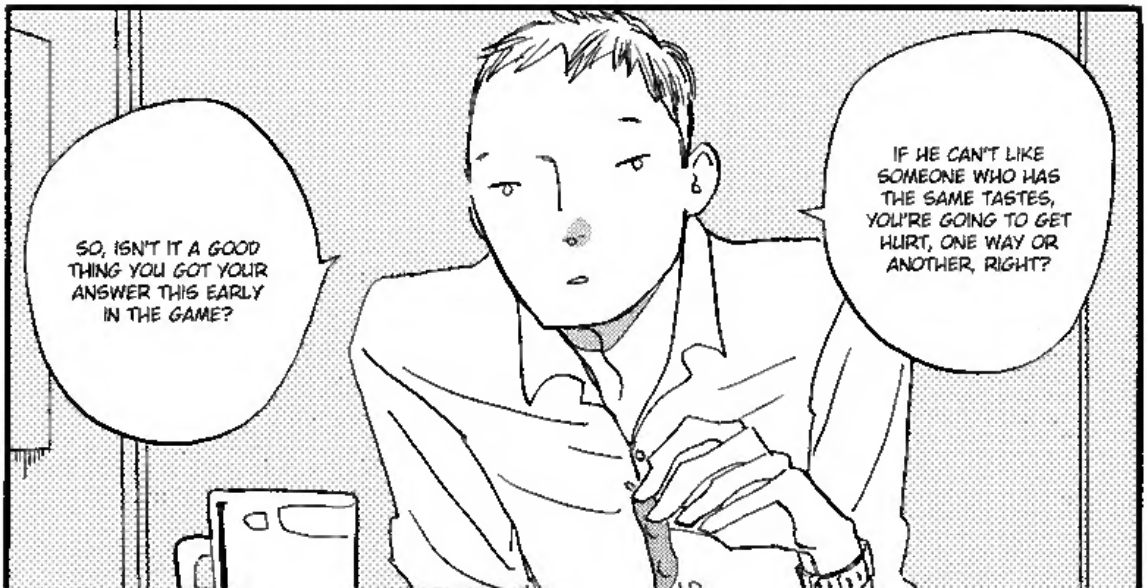
I wonder if Makoto-san gets his happiness from his job.


He said his go-to activity was a drink after work.

He chose me over his favorite snack bar.
And he's added having a drink with me as a fun "place" he can have his happy hour.


If that's the case.
With my confession.
I may have made him lose a place he could look forward to.


I cried several times in my futon because of such a depressing thought.


SO, ISN'T IT A GOOD THING YOU GOT YOUR ANSWER THIS EARLY IN THE GAME?
IF HE CAN'T LIKE SOMEONE WHO HAS THE SAME TASTES, YOU'RE GOING TO GET HURT, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, RIGHT?

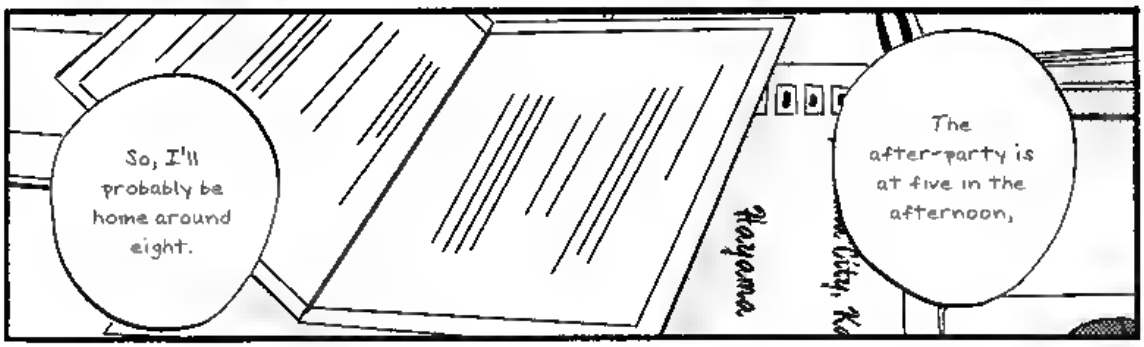
There will come a time when it'll be tough to keep seeing someone who's in love with you.
Even so.

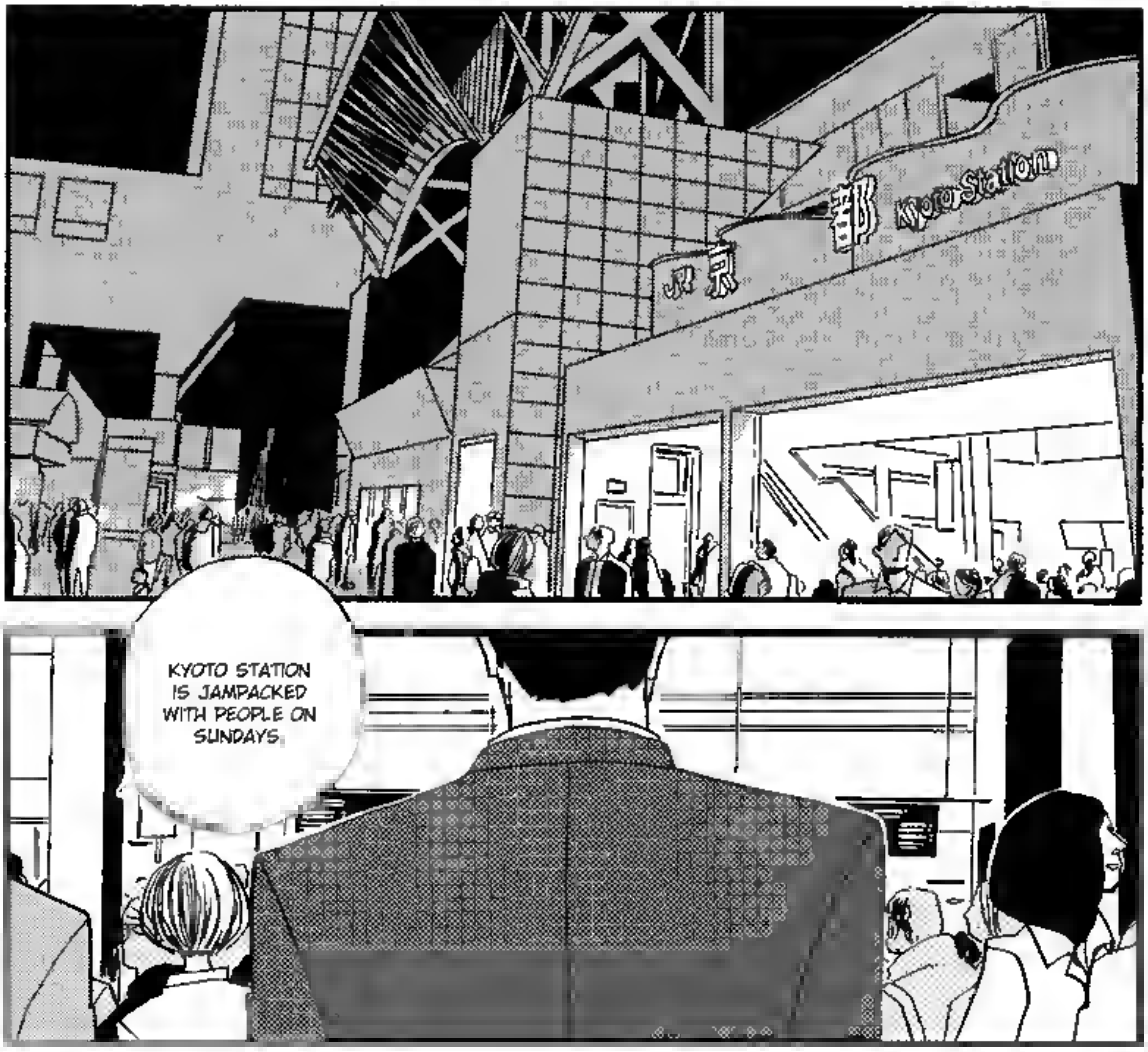
I realized I was considering what was best for Makoto-san.

It made me realize how deeply I love him.

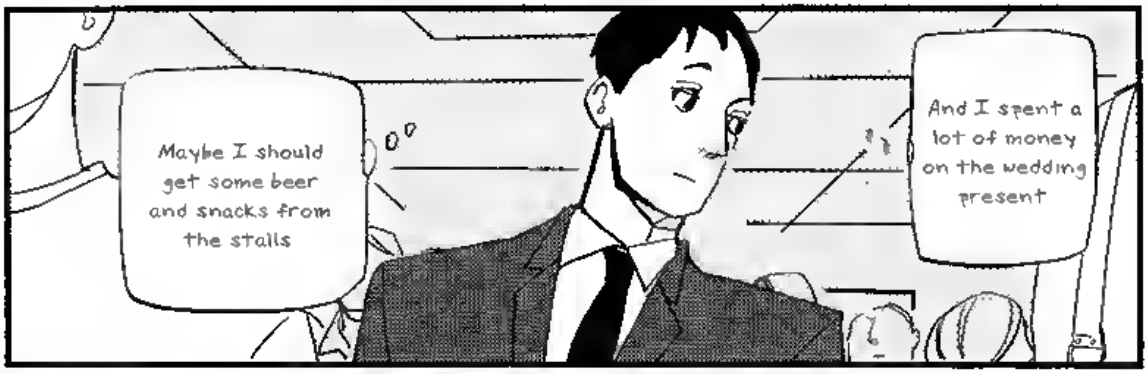
I am happy to
Will be there
Cannot Attend
(Please circle one of the following)
Your Address
Your Good Name
Yokohama City, Kanagawa
Hayama, Tokyo
Congratulations on your weddi
I will be happy to attend.
YOU'RE GOING TO KYOTO?
A GUY FROM MY SEMINAR IS GETTING MARRIED
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE GONE OUT FOR SOMETHING OTHER THAN HORSE RACING, HASN'T IT?
KYOTO MUST BE NICE IN AUTUMN.
IT'S STILL HOT IN SEPTEMBER.
IF YOU DON'T TAKE YOUR CAMERA YOU WON'T HAVE LUGGAGE. GET ME SOME LOCAL BOOZE
GIVE ME THE MONEY AND I'LL BUY IT FOR YOU.
I RAISED SUCH AN UNSYMPATHETIC SON!
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE PICTURES OF HORSES AFTER?
RACES ARE HELD IN HANSHIN DURING SEPTEMBER.

And here I was thinking my next trip to Kyoto would be October.
9
MON TUE WED THU FRI
YOU KNOW TOHRU'S SAVING MONEY.
I'm glad my family doesn't turn conversations like this to "when are you getting married?"


So, I'll probably be home around eight.
The after-party is at five in the afternoon,

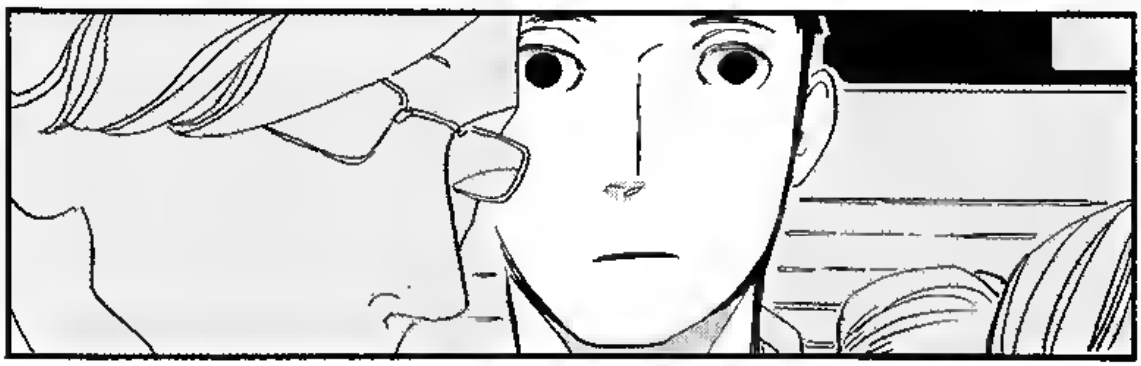

京都 KyotoStation
KYOTO STATION IS JAMPACKED WITH PEOPLE ON SUNDAYS.
WELL, I'M TAKING THE REGULAR TRAIN.
SURE.
GIVE ME A SHOUT NEXT TIME YOU'RE HERE.

It's not as big as a bento...
I think I'm a little hungry
It's been a while since I've been here.

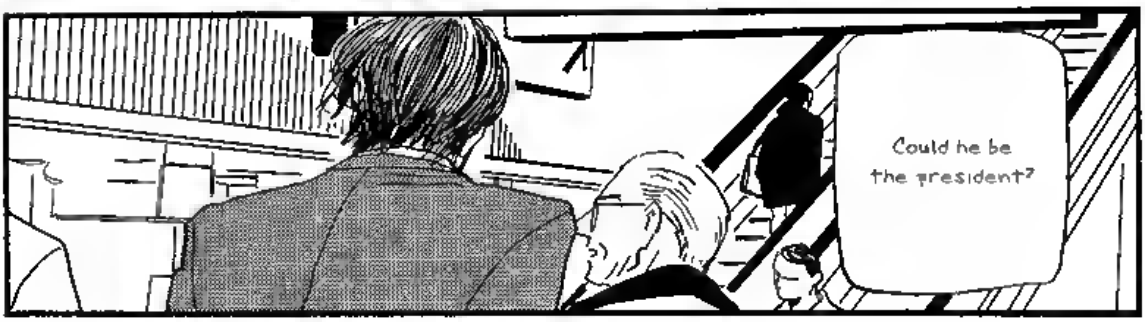

Maybe I should get some beer and snacks from the stalls
And I spent a lot of money on the wedding present

More importantly, am I gonna get a seat.....?

新幹線のりば（中央口）
Shinkansen Tracks (Central Entrance)



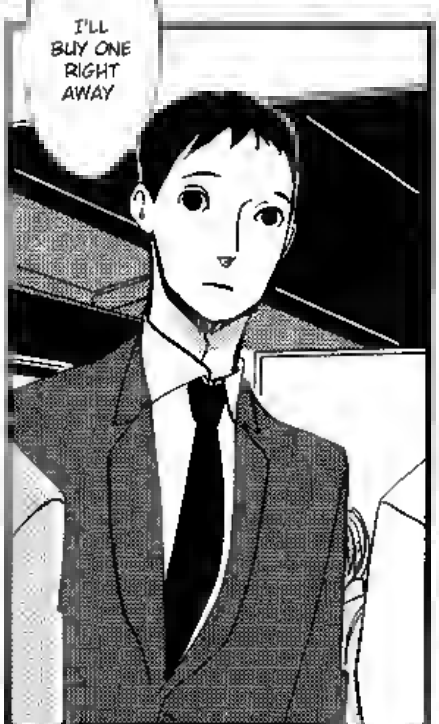
Nozomi
Hikari
Nozomi
Nozomi

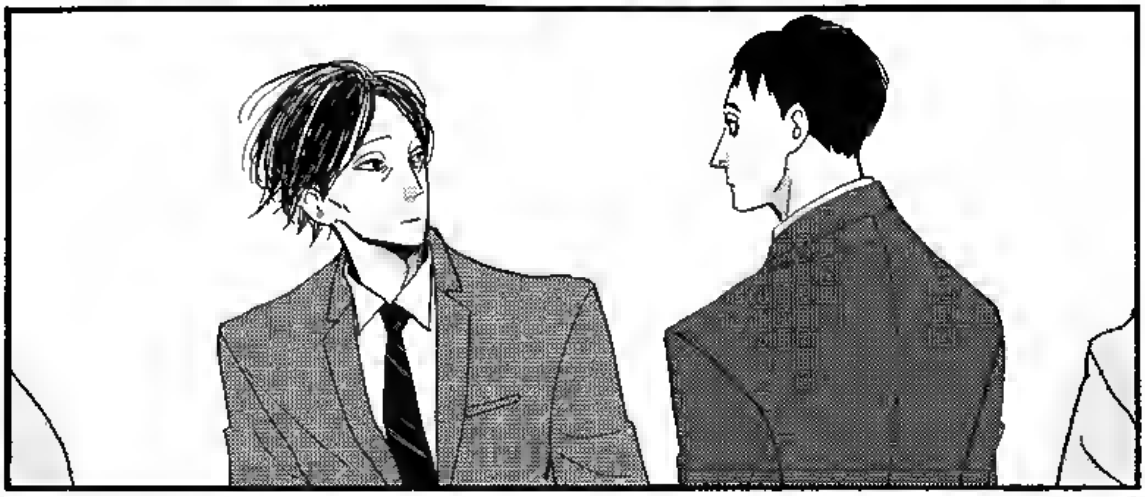

Could he be the president?

Ah...

Just now..
I was about to run up to him and say hello .....

YES.

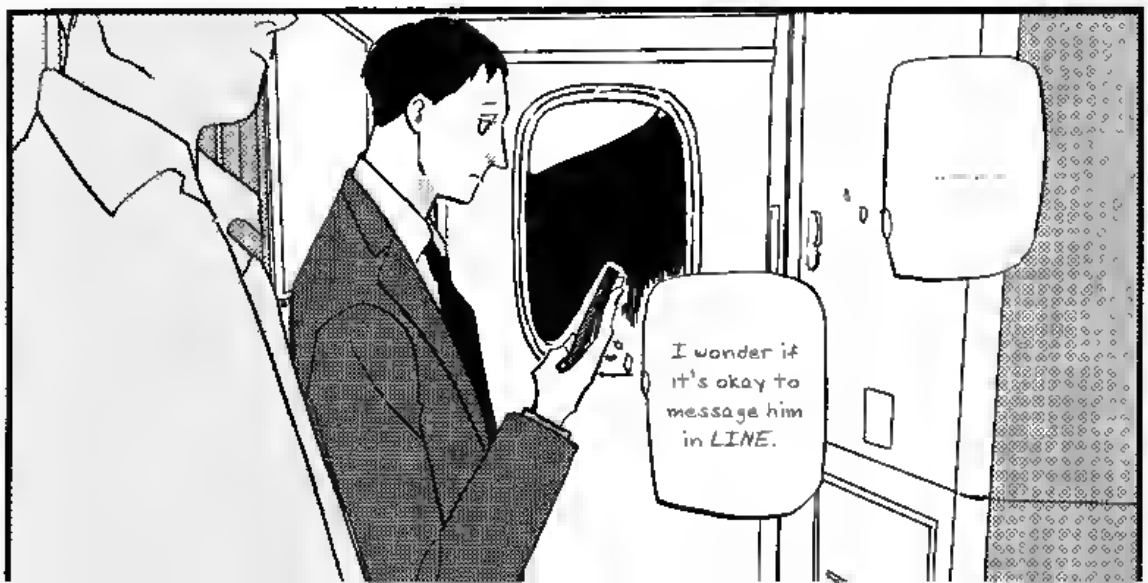

I'LL BUY ONE RIGHT AWAY



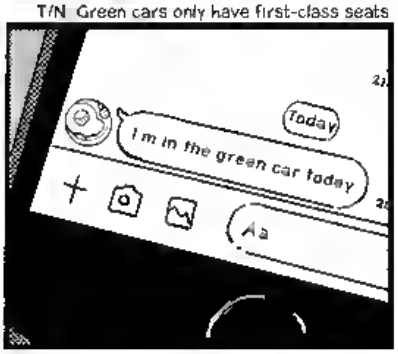
KINOSHITA—
FORGET IT. THE TRAIN IS COMING.

BUY IT FOR ME ON YOUR BUSINESS TRIP NEXT WEEK.
OF COURSE...

2


I wonder if it's okay to message him in LINE.

T/N: Green cars only have first-class seats



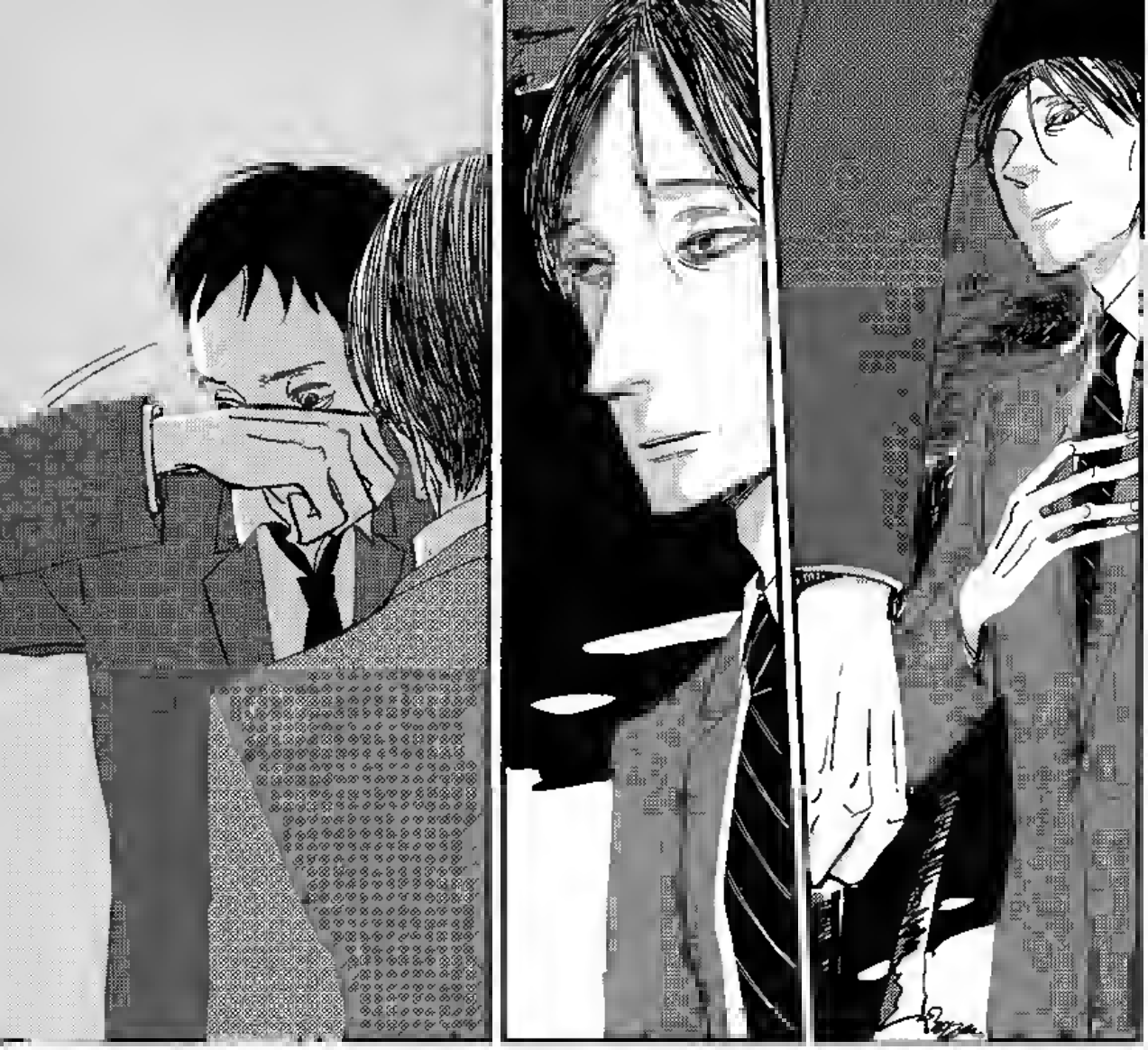
Next stop, Shin-Yokohama
This train will soon arrive at Shin-Yokohama.
Now departing Track Twelve.
pu ru ru ru
Shin-Yokohama.
ROOOOOOR

Thank you for riding the Tokaido Shinkansen .....
I really came
Tokyo.
JR 東京 とうきょう Tokyo
I should've moved to a closer car
Exit (新幹線・八重洲中央北
Shinkansen Yaesu Central-North
If he's not there, I'll message him in LINE.....
Yaesu. Marunouchi...
..Yaesu! That's closer...
Maybe the president will take a taxi...

There he is!

AAHHH.....
...DID HE THROW IT ON YOUR FACE?
KIND OF.
HUH?
YOU'RE IN TOKYO?
Hah--
UM.....
Why am I here ..?
HUH...
DID YOU GET WET?

YOU SEE... HE WAS IN A BAD MOOD TODAY.
AND THEN I SAID SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T HAVE.
THEN HE HAD SOME HIGHBALL IN HIS HAND...
IT WAS JUST BEFORE WE ARRIVED, SO I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO RINSE IT OFF.
DO I SMELL? SORRY ABOUT THAT.



I CAN'T SAY IT FOR YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST QUIT...?

YOU SAID YOU GUYS WERE DOING POORLY, SO IT'S NO WONDER HE GETS SO ANGRY.
BUT MAKOTO-SAN, IT'S ENTIRELY AVOIDABLE.
AREN'T YOU JUST BEING SINGLED OUT?

EVEN WHEN THEY'RE RIGHT THERE...
I CAN WELL IMAGINE THE PEOPLE SURROUNDING YOU JUST LETTING IT SLIDE WHEN YOU'RE BEING USED AS AN OUTLET.

I...

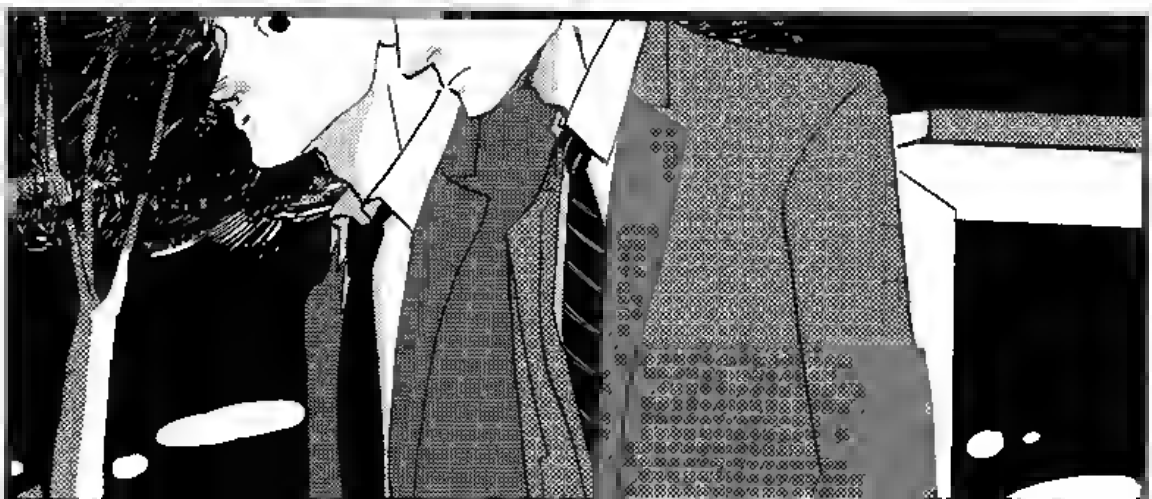
...WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY MAKOTO-SAN

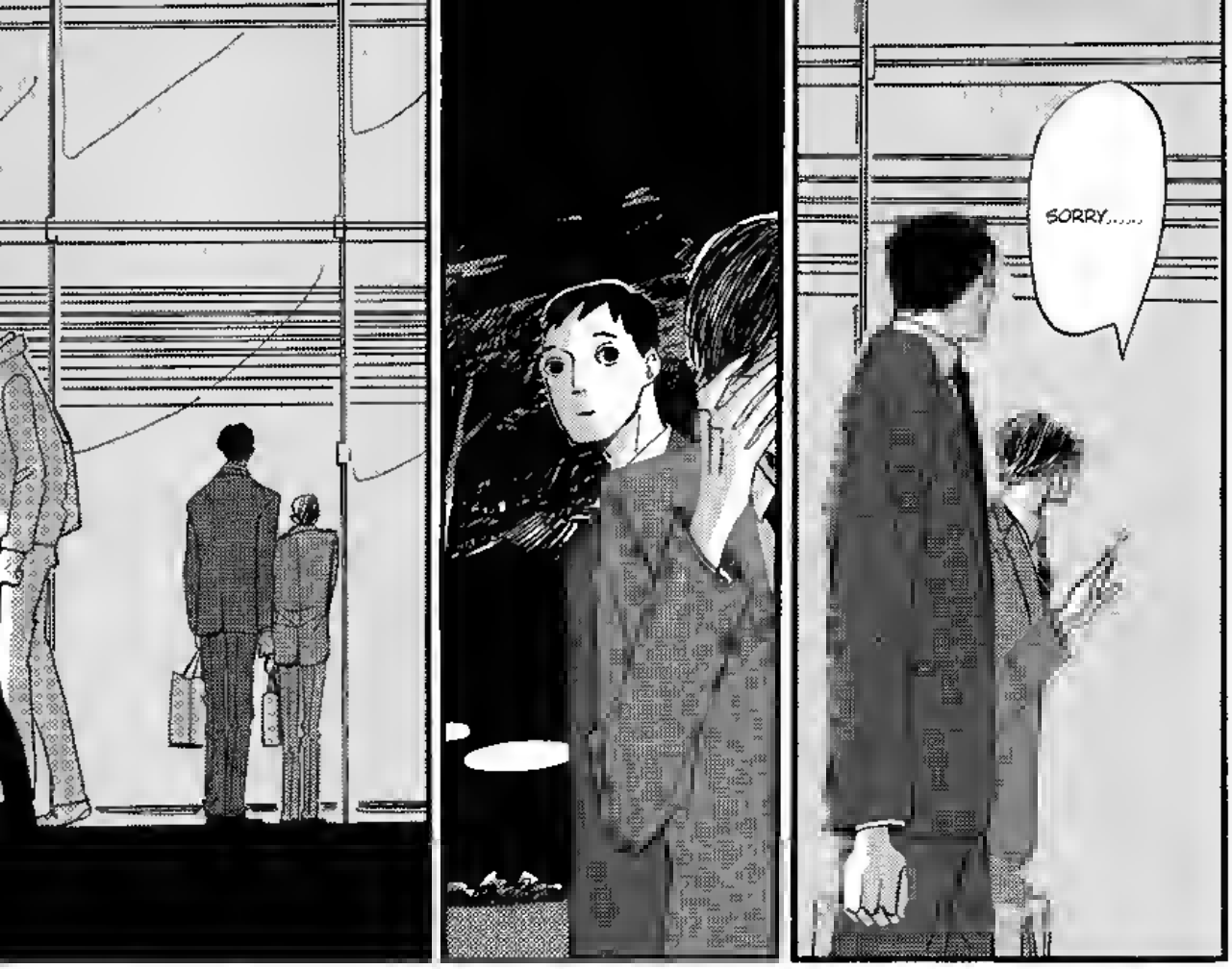
IT CAN'T BE HELPED,
RIGHT, TOHRU-KUN.....
AND YET...

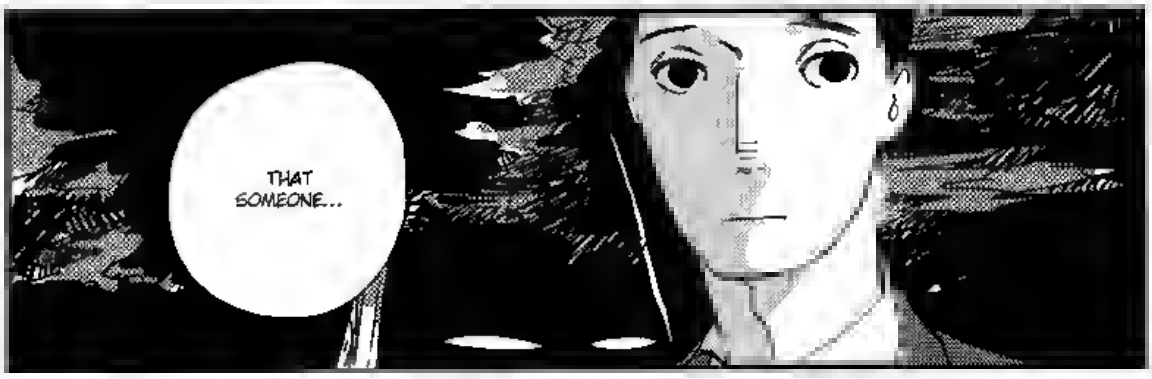
YES.....
...I UNDERSTAND.
I'M SORRY...

TOHRU-KUN, IF YOU DON'T MIND...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A DRINK?

SURE...!




SORRY.....

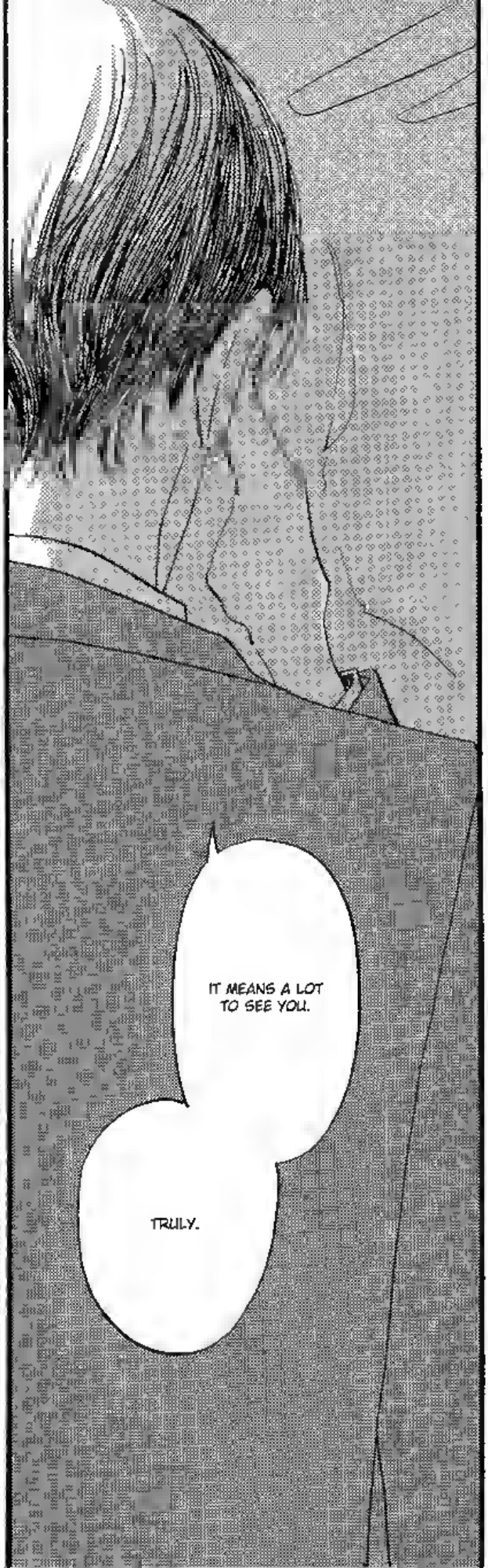

THAT SOMEONE...

WOULD ACTUALLY CRY FOR MY SAKE.....

I'M SORRY.
IT WON'T STOP.
HAHA...
...WHEN I'VE HAD A BUSY DAY AT WORK
AND I'D THINK I SHOULD DE-STRESS, IT'S ALWAYS YOU THAT COMES TO MIND FIRST, TOHRU-KUN.....
SO...
THANK YOU...

I've already put an end to it I'm no longer in love
Let's be drinking buddies.

It's what..

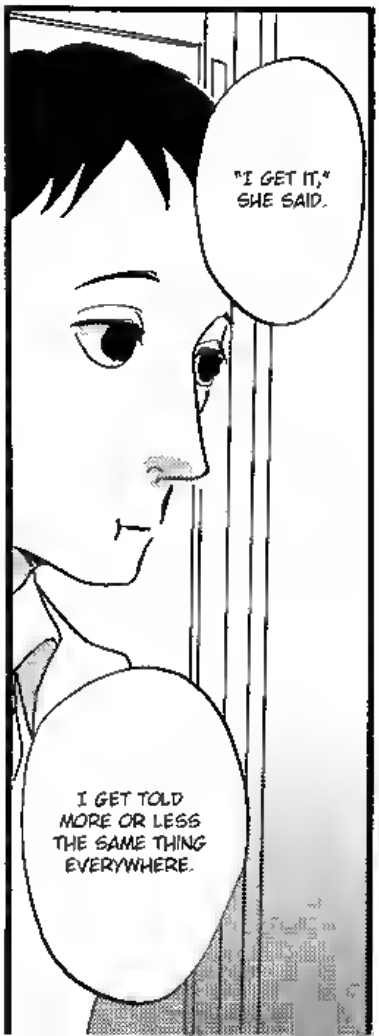

IT MEANS A LOT TO SEE YOU.
TRULY.

I can't say
More than that... Right now, I want to tell him I love him one more time...

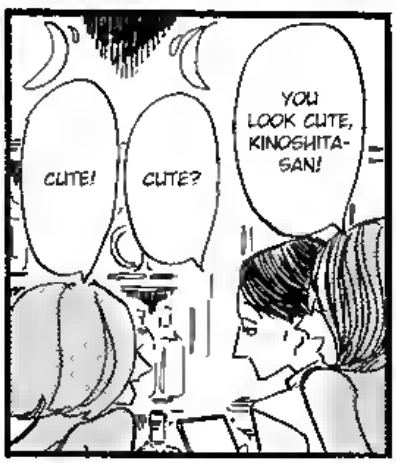
4F
3F
2F
1F
B1
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
I GOT ON THE SHINKANSEN WITHOUT BUYING ANYTHING TO EAT.
IT WAS SO CROWDED THAT THE FOOD TROLLEYS COULDN'T MAKE THE ROUNDS.
THOSE RICE BALLS...
THEY'RE REALLY GOOD.
THERE ARE SO MANY KINDS, SO I'VE MADE IT A POINT TO TRY DIFFERENT FLAVORS EVERY TIME I GO.
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
I SHOULD BUY SOME THE NEXT TIME I GO TO KYOTO, TOO.

Ah
THIS IS DELICIOUS.
IT'S THE START OF THE AUTUMN HORSE RACE, ISN'T IT?
.....
YOU CAN HIT ME UP ON LINE IF YOU WANT TO BUY RACE.....

WHEN I SHOWED IT TO THE LADIES AT THE SNACK BAR...
THAT PHOTO YOU TOOK OF ME...

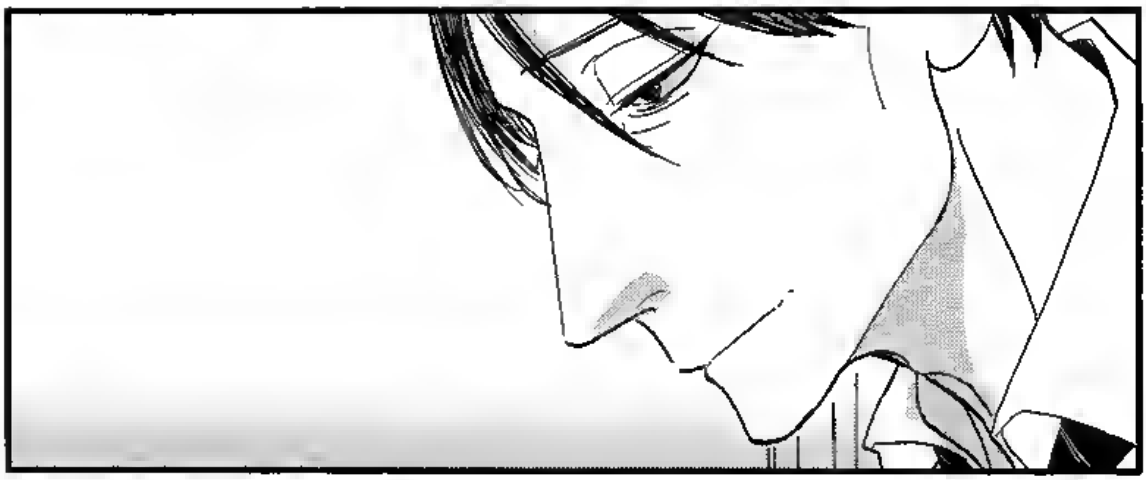

"I GET IT," SHE SAID.
I GET TOLD MORE OR LESS THE SAME THING EVERYWHERE.

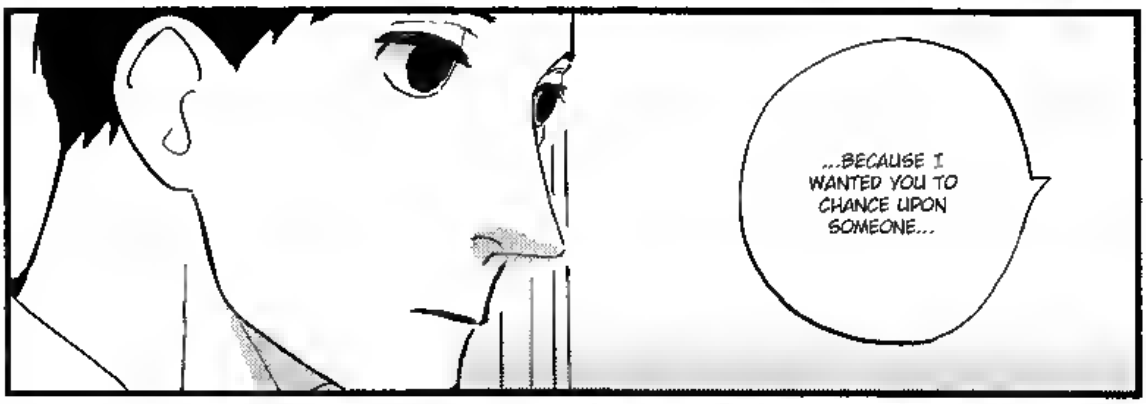
SHE SAID, "YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON WHOEVER TOOK THAT PICTURE, RIGHT?"


YOU LOOK CUTE, KINOSHITA-SAN!
CUTE?
CUTE!

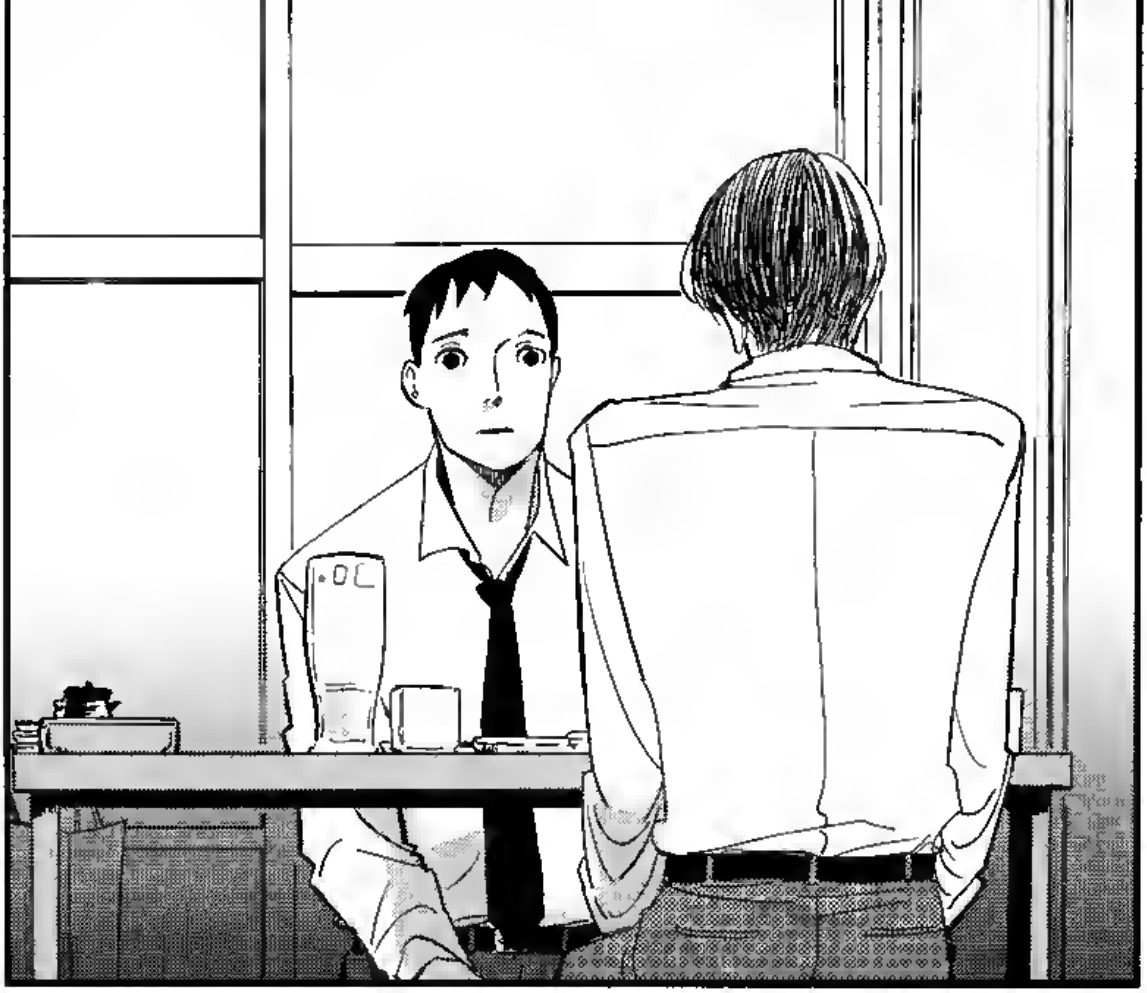
HEY, MAMA, LOOK AT THIS SMILE.

I DIDN'T CONTACT YOU...




...BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO CHANCE UPON SOMEONE...

SOMEONE WHO WILL BE PERFECT FOR YOU.
SOMEONE WHO WILL SAY, "I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY."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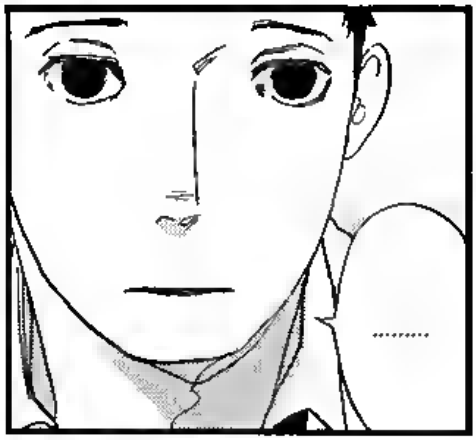
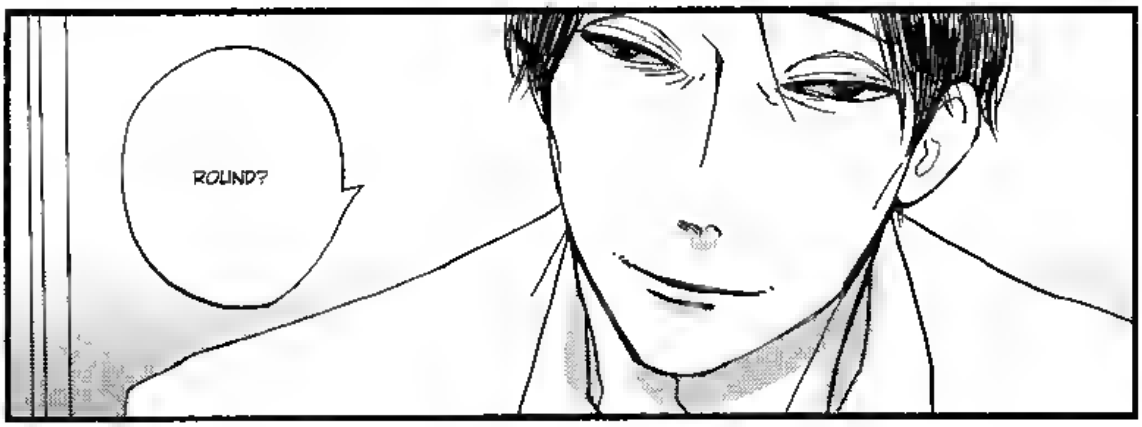
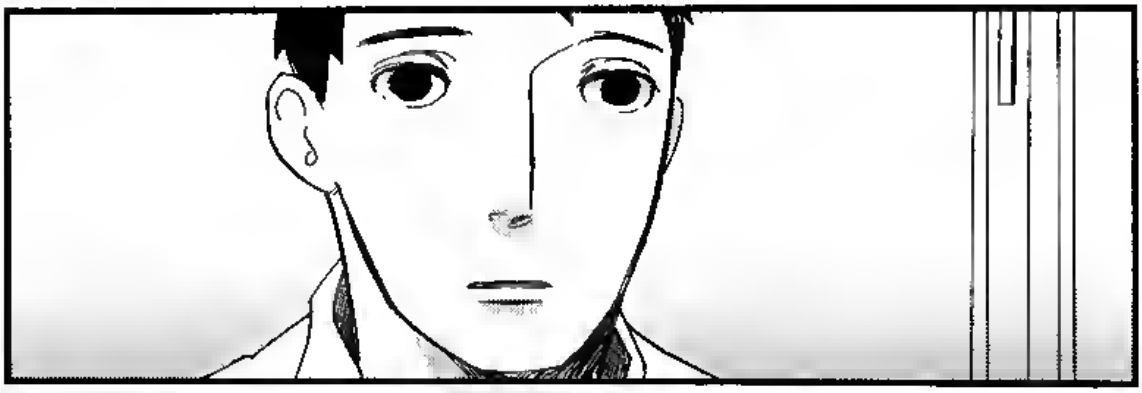
23:58
The last train. ...

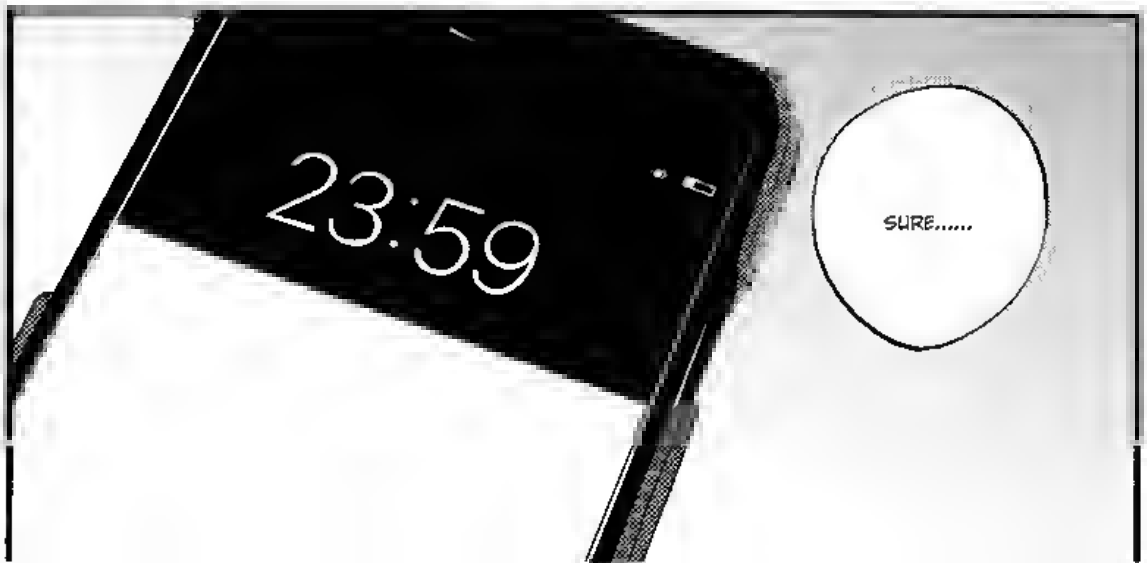

.....

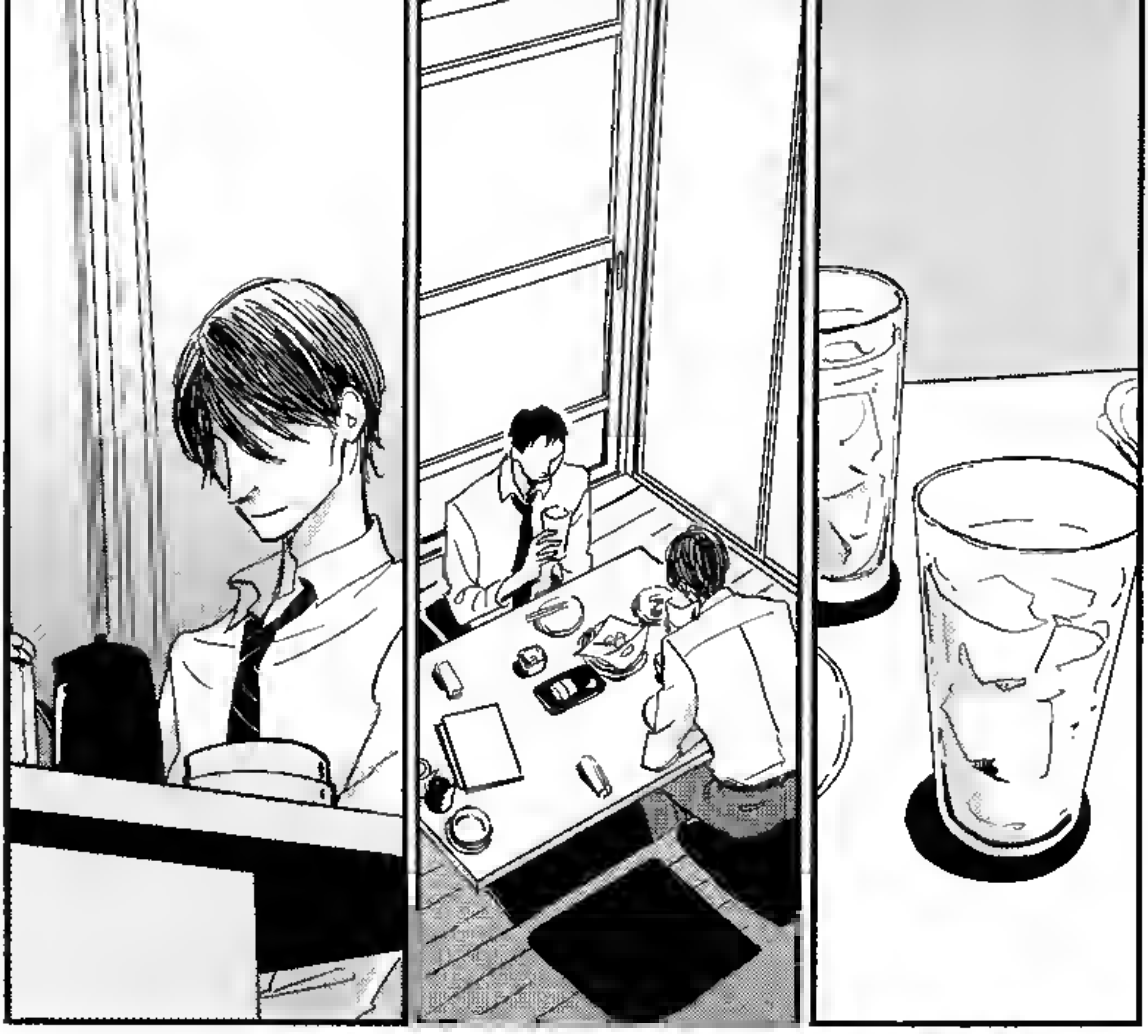
HI, WE'RE TAKING LAST ORDERS.
AH...
WE'RE GOOD.

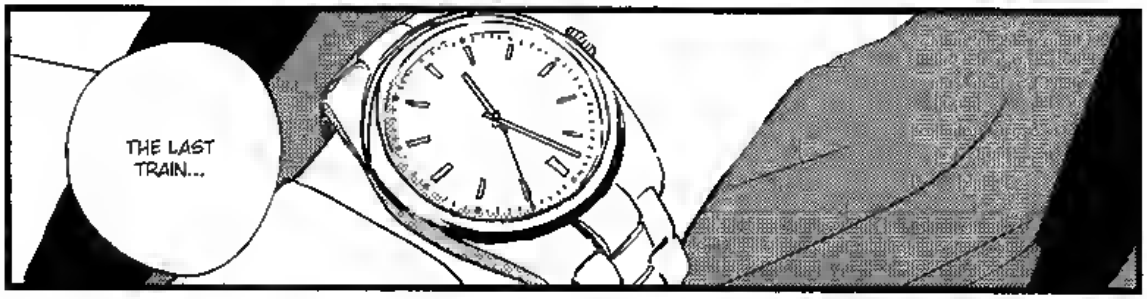
...ONE MORE


ROUND?




23:59
SURE.....




THE LAST TRAIN...

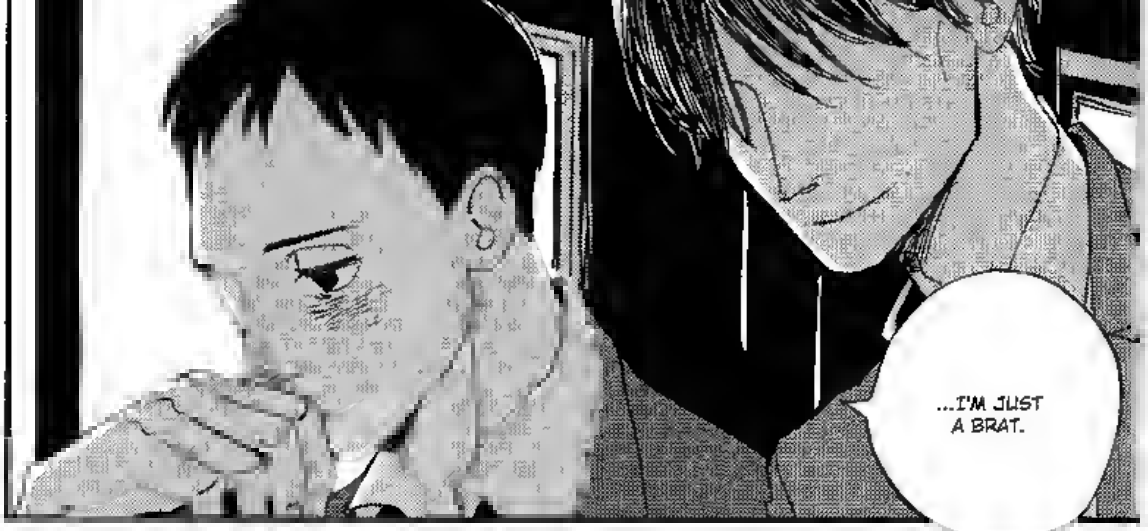
ALREADY LEFT, HUH.

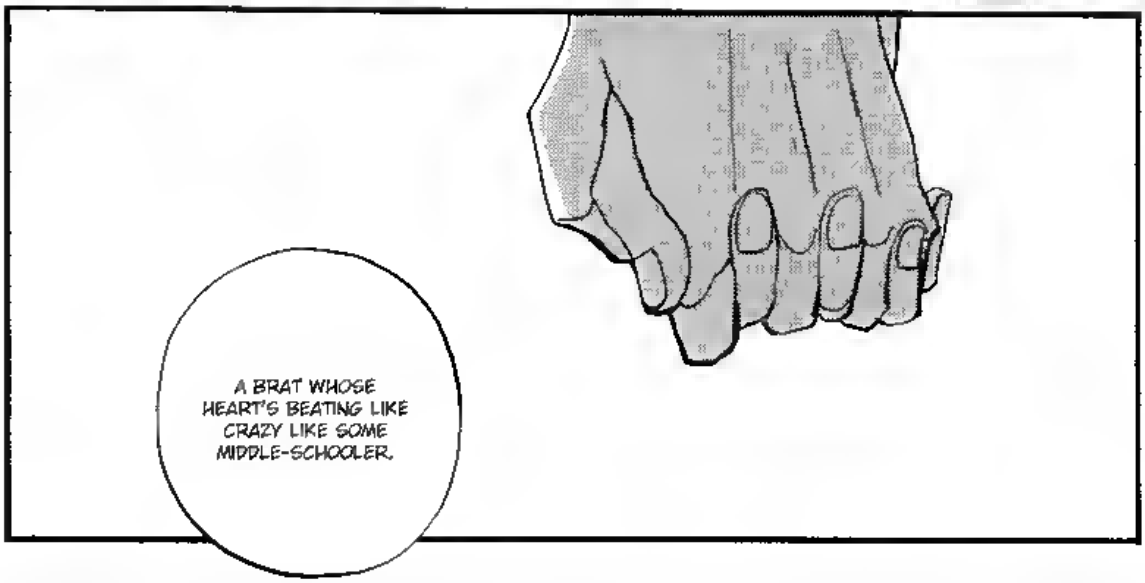
STAY.
AT MY PLACE.

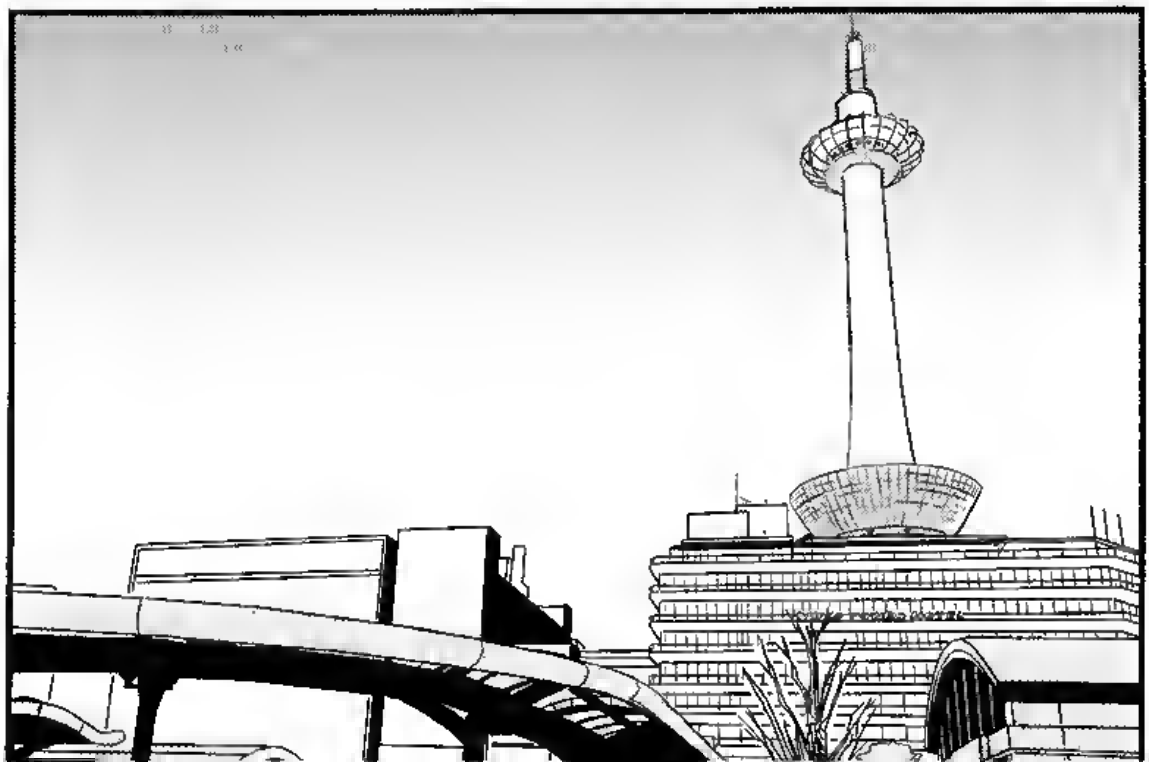
I'M TURNING INTO A COWARD.....
...I'M SORRY.

YOU'RE NO COWARD.

YOU'RE JUST A FINE YOUNG MAN.

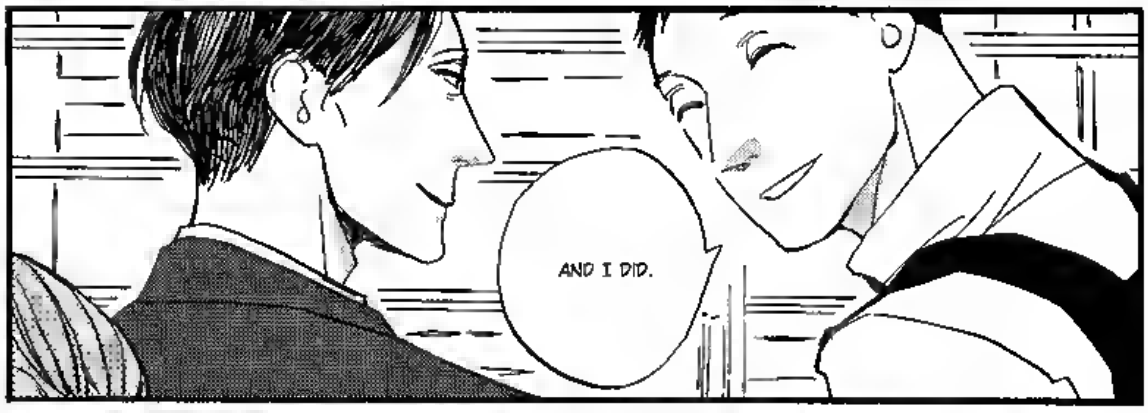

...I'M JUST A BRAT.


A BRAT WHOSE HEART'S BEATING LIKE CRAZY LIKE SOME MIDDLE-SCHOOLER.



名古屋・東京方面
for Nagoya, Tōkyō

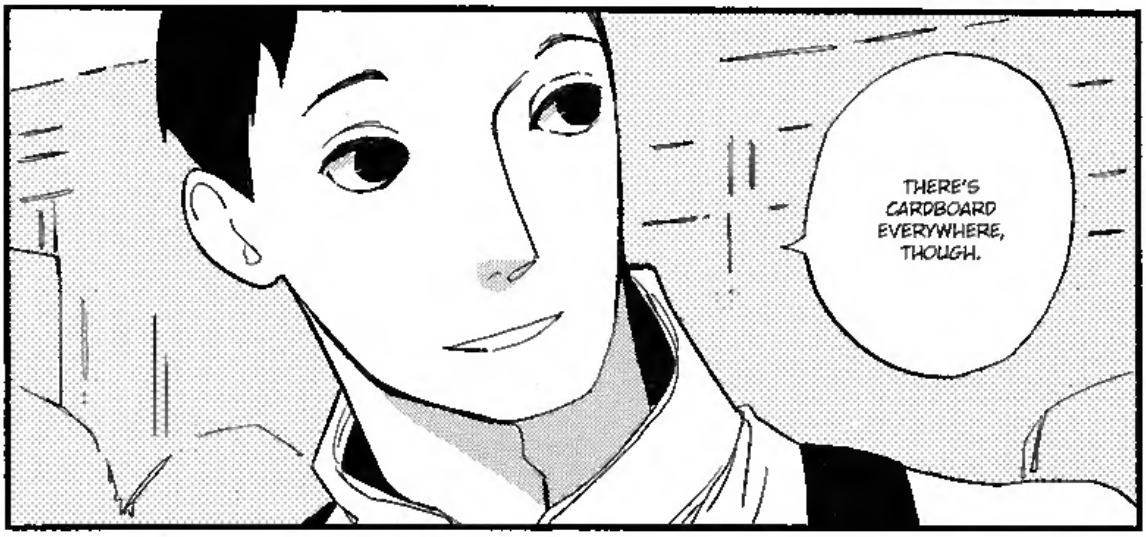
I WONDERED IF I'D MEET YOU BY CHANCE.
YOU COULD'VE CALLED ME
THE THOUGHT CAME TO ME THIS MORNING.
DID YOU SAY YOU'D BE HERE TODAY?
HUH?


AND I DID.

YEAH.
OH.
YOU ALSO GOT RICE BALLS.
WE'RE IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON.
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE TODAY, HUH.

DO YOU HAVE TIME TODAY, MAKOTO-SAN?
HUH--WHEN?
YESTERDAY.
YOU MEAN AT YOUR PARENT'S HOUSE...?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO MY HOUSE? IF YOU DON'T MIND.
WHY NOT TELL ME?
I COULD'VE GIVEN YOU A FUTON.
I MOVED OUT.
Regular Ticket (Return) (Main)
Kyoto City
Tokyo Metro
I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT.
I brought the futon from my parents' house.

HOUSEWARMING CELEBRATION?


THERE'S CARDBOARD EVERYWHERE, THOUGH.

SO, THE PRESIDENT SAID TO ME...
OH, RIGHT.
I'LL SEND YOU A FUTON LATER.

"YOU HAVEN'T SIGHED RECENTLY."
HAHA!
BUT HE SAID HE'S PAYING ATTENTION NOW.
BUT HE'S THE ONE WHO MAKES YOU DO THAT!
I'M GLAD THAT HAPPENED.
IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME THAT WE ENDED UP THERE THAT PARTICULAR DAY.

IT'S ALWAYS GOOD...

WHEN I GET TO MEET YOU AND SIT NEXT TO YOU, TOHRU-KUN.

tonari ni